

Serial No. New National Stage Patent Application

Docket No. K-0717

**REMARKS**

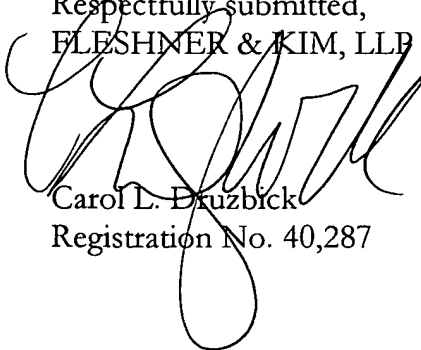
Claims 1-19 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification is amended to add the priority information, claims 1 and 13 are amended to remove reference numerals, and claim 9 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency. Prompt examination and allowance in due course are respectfully solicited.

**CONCLUSION**

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carol L. Druzbeck**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**Date: MAY 4, 2005**

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